

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /071 W
-----046621 040152Z /62
R 020752Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5643

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TH
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE COMPLETES DRAFT CONSTITUTION

1. THE CONSTITUTIONAL DRAFTING COMMITTEE (CDC) COMPLETED WORK ON THE FIRST DRAFT OF A PERMANENT CONSTITUTION DURING ITS WEEKLY MEETING JUNE 1. THE 35-MEMBER CDC IS SCHEDULED TO MEET ONCE AGAIN ON JUNE 8 TO ENDORSE THE DRAFT FORMALLY BEFORE SUBMITTING THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION TO THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (NLA). A SOURCE ON THE CDC INFORMS US THE NLA WILL SELECT A COMMITTEE TO SCRUTINIZE THE DRAFT BEFORE THE DOCUMENT IS BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR OF THE ASSEMBLY FOR DEBATE. HE EXPECTS THE REVIEW PROCESS AT THE NLA TO LAST A MINIMUM OF FOUR MONTHS AND THOUGHT THAT THE PROPOSED DRAFT WOULD UNDERGO SUBSTANTIAL REVISION.

2. THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION REPORTEDLY CONTAINS 192 ARTICLES AND, AS EXPECTED, CALLS FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD BY THE END OF APRIL, 1979. THE DRAFT PROVIDES FOR AN APPOINTED SENATE, SELECTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL POLICY COUNCIL, TO CONTAIN 3/4 THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE ELECTED LOWER CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT. THE SENATE, WHICH IS

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EXPECTED TO INCLUDE ALL 23 MEMBERS OF THE NPC, WILL BE EMPOWERED TO PARTICIPATE IN VOTES ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AND ON VOTES OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT. THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION ALSO REPORTEDLY CONTAINS A PROVISION TO GRANT SUMMARY POWERS OF PUNISHMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, SIMILAR TO ARTICLE 27 OF THE PRESENT INTERIM CONSTITUTION, AND

TO ARTICLES LIKE IT IN PREVIOUS CONSTITUTIONS.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO15837
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780233-0511
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806104/aaaadlre.tel
Line Count: 64
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9871147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2151967
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMITTEE COMPLETES DRAFT CONSTITUTION
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9871147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014